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California Law Review

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EDITORIAL NOTES

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATION

THE sixth annual meeting of the California Bar Association was held in San Francisco from the 23rd to the 25th of August. The session closed with a notable banquet, at which ex-President Taft was one of the speakers. The meeting as well as the banquet will be remembered by reason of the presence of a large number of visiting members of the American Bar Association as guests.

One of the most important pieces of work undertaken by the association for the succeeding year was entrusted to a committee of which Mr. A. E. Bolton, of San Francisco, is chairman. This is the consideration of the possibility of simplifying procedure by a radical change of system. The work that has been done and is now being done in New York and other states gives rise to the hope that something may be achieved in that respect on this side of the United States. The legislation in respect to a simplification of appellate procedure upon which the Commonwealth Club and the California Bar Association, together with some of the local bar associations, worked for years, has at last been adopted, and is now in force as law, owing to the untiring efforts of these organizations. To have accomplished even this reform, in view of the prevailing attitude of indifference both on the part of the public and of legislatures toward improved efficiency in judicial administration and in private law, gives promise of some sound legislation on these matters in the future. It may even be hoped that at some not impossibly remote date, California may adopt the Uniform Negotiable Instruments Act and secure a proper system of examinations for admission to the bar. The California Bar Association, which has always stood for these measures, is one of the strong and enduring influences in the permanent betterment of the state through intelligent reforms such as those just mentioned.

The Editor takes this occasion of acknowledging the high compliment paid the California Law Review by the vote of approval of the Association and of thanking the retiring President for his kind words of appreciation concerning the Review and its work.

Mr. Eugene Daney, of San Diego, was elected president of the association for the year 1915-1916. Mr. T. W. Robinson, of Los Angeles, remains the secretary.

School of Jurisprudence Notes

THE regular work of the School of Jurisprudence commenced on the 17th of August. One hundred and fifty-nine students enrolled in the professional courses, an increase of thirty-two over the attendance of last year. The most noticeable change is in the second year class, which has increased from thirty to forty-eight.

There has been a marked change in the attitude of the students in the University who are preparing to enter the professional law work. At the opening of the present term there was formed an organization of students who were interested in discussing problems connected with the necessary academic preparation for the study of law. The society as at present constituted includes the members of the freshman class in the University. The plan of the organizers is to include succeeding classes which enter the University and to embrace in the membership all intending students of law who are registered in the freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

It has not been deemed advisable to prescribe a formal University course for those who are preparing for the professional course of the School of Jurisprudence, but for a number of years the annual announcement of the School has contained suggestions for preliminary University work. After pointing out the importance of pursuing a systematic course in history, economics, political science, and the classics, it has been the aim of the faculty to impress upon the student the following fact: "Whatever direction the student's pre-legal training may take, whether in history, letters, pure science, or applied science, the importance cannot be too strongly impressed upon him of pursuing systematic and thorough courses in one or two departments rather than of making a curriculum of fragmentary and unrelated subjects in a number of departments."

During the last few years under a system of faculty advisers for freshmen this fact was conveyed directly to each individual as he registered in the University for the first time. Last year at an informal conference of faculty and second and third year students in the School it was ascertained that the intending students of law were inclined to follow the line of least resistance and to be satisfied with accumulations of credits from fragmentary and unrelated subjects. To add further emphasis to the at-

tempts made to correct this tendency a general meeting of pre-legal students entering the University was called during the first week of the term. When so assembled and after a discussion of the methods of pre-legal study by members of the faculty and some of the regular law students, the freshmen on their own initiative organized a society for the purpose of keeping up within the class an interest in these problems. It is the aim of this society to discuss general matters pertaining to pre-legal education. It is to be kept entirely distinct from the Law Association, the organization of the students enrolled in the professional courses.

A change has been made in the moot court work of the School. Heretofore there were several moot courts and the work was voluntary on the part of the students. Under the present plan the work is compulsory for first year men. In each of the ten courts there are eight of these beginners with a number of second and third year men. Each first year student prepares and argues four cases during the year. The work is in charge of the third year students and a committee from the faculty.

The annual address before the California Bar Association was delivered by Professor O. K. McMurray on August 24th. His subject was, "Changing Conceptions of Law and of Legal Institutions." Professor McMurray also spoke before the International Congress of the National Education Association in Oakland on August 27th on "Some Defects in Our Legal Education."

M. C. L.